Discussion with Nepal on security issues

1141. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Secretary visited Nepal in the first week of July, 2000 to hold discussion with his counterpart in Nepal Government on security related matters before resumption of Indian Airlines flights; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Home Secretary visited Nepal from July 4-7, 2000 whereas the India Airlines flight between New Delhi and Kathmandu was resumed on June 1, 2000.

It was agreed to further intensify cooperation and jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border districts of India and Nepal, to counter activities inimical to India's interests. Shared concern on this matter was evident from the determination expressed by both sides to take urgent necessary steps to control misuse of the open border between the two countries. It was also agreed to introduce with effect from October 1, 2000, a pruned down list of photo identification documents that would be valid for air travel by Indian and Nepalese nationals between the two countries.

Friendship Clubs as Centre of Prostitution Racket

1142. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of friendship clubs are running in Delhi, where prostitution rackets are being run;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to check this menace;

(c) whether Government propose to enquire into the affairs of these clubs;

(d) if so, bey when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) No direct evidence of involvement of friendship clubs in prostitution racket has come to the notice of Delhi Police. However, the police personnel deployed in Districts and Crime Branch have been directed to keep a close watch on the activities of such clubs and take appropriate legal action of any instance of violation of law comes to their notice.

Swindling of Central Funds by Extremist Organisation

1143. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extremists organisations in the country like naxalites in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh and ULFA and others in North-East are forcibly swindling Central funds meant for rural development and poverty alleviation, that are released to these States;

(b) whether Government have any contingency steps in anvil to prevent these extremist elements from forcible loot of development funds in the rural areas; and

(c) what has been the response of the State Governments towards this meance particularly the State of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) There are no confirmed reports to this effect, except in the case of North-Eastern States where some instances of collection of funds from persons engaged in development works have come to notice.

(b) and (c) Government has been regularly sensitizing all State Government and concerned agencies regarding the activities of terrorists/extremists. Intelligence is shared on continuous basis and support is provided by way of financial assistance for modernisation of State Police Forces, deployment of Central Para Military Forces, reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure as per approved guidelines etc. State Governments are reviewing the situation from time to time for appropriate action.